

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Vegetables in the Flower Border"...Information from Victory Garden Headquarters of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mistress Mary had silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maidens all growing in her garden. Which strikes me as being an odd assortment of garden crops.

A suggestion for a much more practical arrangement comes from Victory Garden Headquarters in the United States Department of Agriculture. It's meant for those of us who don't have room for the vegetables we'd like to grow but do have perennial flower beds.

Where perennials are well established, the soil good, there's plenty of sun and lots of space between the flowers...vegetables can be grown in the flower beds. And grown successfully.

For example, at the back of a flower bed...on the north or west side where they won't shade out flowers, tomatoes on stakes, pole beans or tall growing varieties of okra will provide a nice background of greenery for flowers as well as some food for the table. If you plant pole beans, though, be sure to have enough room for spraying and picking. Maybe you'll want to leave a space between the beans and the rest of the plot. And tomatoes must be staked or else they could crowd out some of your favorite flower plants.

In the perennial bed, where ever there's space for one or more plant, there's space for sweet pepper, eggplant, or chard. The glossy leaves and fruit of the pepper are ornamental as well as useful. And we could say the same for eggplant or chard.

Near the front of the bed...in the place of sweet alyssum, you might plant beets, feathery carrots, lettuce and a little parsley. Onions will fit in anywhere.

One thing to remember. There's a limit to the amount of double duty a plot of ground can do. A plot where flowers are crowded with vegetables won't produce either well. So be sure you have the space, the good soil, the sunshine before you plant vegetables in the flower bed.

(4-27-45)

